(c) States taken to ensure safety of passengers are as under:—

(i) Scrutiny of maintenance and operational practices of the operator by the Safety Audit team of DGCA.

(ii) Periodic surveillance checks of maintenance facilities of various operators by DGCA.

(iii) Monitoring of Cockpit Voice Recorder and Flight Data Recorder readouts of various aircraft to ensure standard safety norms.

(iv) Monitoring of the in-flight procedures followed by flight crew by Flight Inspection Directorate of DGCA.

(v) A hundred percent safety audit of all aircraft operated by private airlines by DGCA.

(d) DGCA has taken action against personnel and management for violation of laid down rules arid procedures.

Tourism Related Projects Sanctioned by Central and State Governments

490. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the tourism related projects sanctioned by the centre and the State Governments during 1995 and 1996 (till date);

(b) which of these sanctioned projects are under execution and the names of the States where these projects have been taken up;

(c) the 8th plan allocation for the development of tourism in the country and what is the actual expenditure incurred on the development of tourism stating the lames of the projects on which the, expenditure has been incurred; and

(d) the existing incentives to the private sector for promotion of tourism in the country and whether Government propose to review its policy to attract private sector in the tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to the Stat&Union Territory Governments for promotion of tourism under various schemes which include construction of tourist bungalows, tourist complexes, wayside amenities, tourist reception centres and yatri niwases. In addition, assistance is provided for the refurbishment and beautification of the precincts near the monuments and heritage sites and adventure tourism activities. Publicity support and assistance for promotion of fairs and festivals are provided to the State Governments.

In 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till date) the Department has supported 194 projects estimated at 3356.81 lakhs. These projects are at various stages of execution b> the State Governments.

(c) The 8th plan allocation for the Department of Tourism was 440 crores and the actual expenditure incurred in the first four years by the Department, till date, is 352.15 crores.

(d) The Government of India provides various incentives and benefits to private sector such as Interest Subsidy to One, Two and Three Star Category Hotels on loans taken from financial institutions and benefits under the Income Tax Act 1964. In addition, various State Government also provide incentives to the private sector for promotion of tourism in the country.

Efforts to Boost Tourism in Assam

491. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the details of efforts if any that are being takeninitiatedtontemplated to boost tourism in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): To boost tourism in Assam, the Department of Tourism on behalf of the State Government has sponsored a prepa-

ration' b? a Master Plan. The State Government has also identified thrust areas for Development of Tourism.

In the first 4 years of the 8th Plan, the Department of Tourism provided Rs. 280 lakhs for the development of tourism in the State of Assam.

Steps to Increase Foreign Investment in Various Projects

492. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a)" whether Government are taking steps to increase the foreign investments in different projects;

(b) if so, the number of projects taken up in different States with foreign assistance;

(c) whether the proposal to implement some projects in 1996-97 with foreign assistance is under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government have taken various steps as a part of the New Industrial Policy to attract foreign investments including automatic approval upto 51% foreign equity in 35 high priority industries and a revamped FIPB to consider proposals not covered under the automatic route. The policies are continually under review to effect further liberalisation and Government have rcently dispensed with the condition of foreign equity financing of capital good imports in respect of automatic approval route cases of the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal to Open New Tourism and Travel Management Institute in Hyderabad

493. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government had urged the Central Government to open new toursim and travel management institute in Hyderabad.

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have accepted the proposal;

(c) if so, by what time a final decision is likely to be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been considered.

Award of National Industrial Tribunal of RRB

494. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the award of the National .Industrial Tribunal relating to pay structure of Regional Rural Bank;

(b) whether it has been accepted by Government and implemented; and

(c) whether the award was time-bound and subject to viability of the Regional Rural Bank; if not, whether Government can deny the award of this Tribunal when the award was binding and final?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The pay and allowances of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are to